

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original): An inorganic layered compound dispersion,  
wherein an inorganic layered compound (b) is dispersed using a peroxide (a) in a dispersion medium.
2. (Original): The inorganic layered compound dispersion according to Claim 1,  
wherein a mixture containing the peroxide (a) and inorganic layered compound (b) in a mixing ratio by mass of (a)/(b) = 2/1 to 1/1000 is dispersion treated in a high speed stirring apparatus and/or a high pressure dispersing apparatus.
3. (Original): The inorganic layered compound dispersion according to Claim 1 or 2,  
wherein hydrogen peroxide is used as the peroxide (a).
4. (Original): A process for producing an inorganic layered compound dispersion,  
which comprises admixing a peroxide (a) and an inorganic layered compound (b) in a dispersion medium in a mixing ratio by mass of (a)/(b) = 2/1 to 1/1000 and further treating the resulting mixture in a high speed stirring apparatus and/or a high pressure dispersing apparatus to distribute the cleaved inorganic layered compound (b) in the dispersion medium.
5. (Currently amended): A gas barrier coating composition,  
which comprises the inorganic layered compound dispersion (c) according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 and a gas barrier resin (d).

6. (Original): The gas barrier coating composition according to Claim 5, wherein the total content of the inorganic layered compound (c) and gas barrier resin (d) in the gas barrier coating composition is 1 to 30% by mass and the mass ratio (c)/(d) is 30/70 to 70/30.

7. (Original): The gas barrier coating composition according to Claim 5 or 6, which contains, as the gas barrier resin (d), at least one resin selected from among polyvinyl alcohol-based resins and ethylene-vinyl alcohol-based resins.

8. (Currently amended): A gas barrier composite plastic film or sheet, which is obtainable by applying the gas barrier coating composition according to ~~any one of Claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5 or 6 at least one of the surfaces of a film or sheet of a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides and polystyrene in a coating weight to give a dry film thickness of 0.1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

9. (Original): A gas barrier packaging container, which is obtainable by molding the gas barrier composite plastic film according to Claim 8.

10. (Original): A gas barrier packaging container, which is obtainable by molding the gas barrier composite plastic sheet according to Claim 8.

11. (Currently amended): A gas barrier packaging container, which is obtainable by applying the gas barrier coating composition according to ~~any one of Claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5 or 6 to a plastic container molded in the form of a tube, tray, cup, box or bottle in a coating weight to give a dry film thickness of 0.1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. (Original): A gas barrier packaging container,  
which is formed of a composite layer consisting of paper and the gas barrier composite  
plastic film or sheet according to Claim 8.